

Claims

We claim:

1. A transaction card system comprising:

a foldable transaction card wherein said foldable transaction card comprises a first
5 section and a second section wherein a hinge is disposed between the first and second
sections; and

a housing surrounding the transaction card when the transaction card is in a folded
state wherein the housing comprises a hinge for folding said housing.

2. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the transaction card is removably
10 disposed within the housing.

3. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein at least the first section of the
transaction card is attached to the housing.

4. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the housing comprises a first
section and a second section wherein the hinge is disposed between the first and second
15 sections.

5. The transaction card system of claim 4 wherein the first section of the transaction
card is attached to the first section of the housing.

6. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the housing comprises an attaching
means and the transaction card is attached to the housing via the attaching means.

20 7. The transaction card system of claim 6 wherein the attaching means comprises a
track, wherein the transaction card is disposed within the track.

8. The transaction card system of claim 7 wherein the first section of the transaction
card is removably disposed within the track.

9. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the housing comprises an opening means for opening the housing to access the transaction card disposed therein.

10. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the opening means comprises an actuator whereby actuating the actuator allows the housing to open.

5 11. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the hinge of the housing is spring-loaded.

12. The transaction card system of claim 11 wherein the spring-loaded hinge of the housing allows the housing to spring open when opened.

13. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the first section of the transaction
10 card is attached to the housing and the second section unfolds outside the housing when the housing is opened.

14. The transaction card system of claim 13 wherein the second section comprises an electronic storage means for storing information on the transaction card that is readable with an electronic storage means reader.

15 15. The transaction card system of claim 14 wherein the storage means is a magnetic stripe.

16. The transaction card system of claim 15 wherein the magnetic stripe is readable by a magnetic stripe reader without removing the transaction card from the housing.

17. The transaction card system of claim 15 wherein the magnetic stripe is readable by
20 a magnetic stripe reader after the transaction card is removed from the housing.

18. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the hinge between the first and second sections of the transaction card comprises a fold line in said transaction card.

19. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the hinge comprises a strip interconnected to both the first and second sections.

20. The transaction card system of claim 1 wherein the transaction card has at least one dimension smaller than a traditional transaction card when the transaction card is in an

5 unfolded state.